

U.S. Serial No. 10/678,065

ASA-927-02

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-11 (Canceled).

12. (Currently amended) A document retrieval method, involving a series of document retrieval processes including a plurality of retrieval operations inputted by a user, comprising:

a user's evaluation input step for inputting a user's evaluation of a document ~~by designating a document~~ retrieved in a document search conducted pursuant to a search ~~condition~~ query, said user's evaluation including an evaluation as to whether the document is desirable for the user's search purpose;

a search ~~condition~~ query storage step for, when updating said search ~~condition~~ query based on said evaluation, storing a search ~~condition~~ query after the update in association with the retrieval operation thereof, in addition to those search ~~conditions~~ queries that have been stored in ~~connection with~~ previous retrieval operations conducted before said update in said series of document retrieval processes;

a search result storage step for storing a search result based on the search ~~condition~~ query after the update in addition to those search results that have been stored in

U.S. Serial No. 10/678,065

ASA-927-02

~~connection with~~ previous retrieval operations conducted before said update in said series of document retrieval processes; and

a search history storage step for storing information on a history of the search ~~conditions~~ queries each stored in said search ~~condition~~ query storage step, information on a history of search results each stored in said search result storage step, and ~~said evaluation and an identifier of a document subjected to said evaluation by making a correspondence among them and each of user's evaluations and each of identifiers of documents subjected to said evaluations by making a correspondence among the search query, the search result, the user's evaluation and the identifier of the document subjected to the user's evaluation.~~

13. (Previously presented) A document retrieval method according to claim 12, further comprising an evaluation history display step for delivering a list of documents for which the user has inputted evaluations to evaluate said documents as desirable or undesirable in the past on the basis of the information stored in said search history storage step and said evaluations for said documents.

U.S. Serial No. 10/678,065

ASA-927-02

14. (Previously presented) A document retrieval method according to claim 12, further comprising a search result history display step for delivering a document delivered as a search result before said search condition is updated on the basis of said evaluation even after said search condition is updated, on the basis of the information stored in said search history storage step.

15. (Previously presented) A document retrieval method according to claim 13, further comprising a search condition restoration step for restoring, of the evaluation history delivered in said evaluation history display step, a search condition before a desired evaluation is inputted.

16. (Previously presented) A document retrieval method according to claim 13, further comprising a search condition update step for inputting an evaluation to evaluate a document delivered in said evaluation history display step as desirable or undesirable and updating said search condition on the basis of said evaluation input in said search condition update step.

17. (Previously presented) A document retrieval method according to claim 13, further comprising a user evaluation

U.S. Serial No. 10/678,065

ASA-927-02

erase step for erasing a desired one of said evaluations as to desirability or undesirability inputted by the user in said evaluation history display step, in accordance with a request from the user, and updating the search condition to the state available when said evaluation is not made.

18. (Previously presented) A document retrieval method according to claim 14, further comprising a search condition update step for causing the user to input an evaluation to evaluate the document delivered in said search result history display step as desirable or undesirable so as to update said search condition on the basis of said evaluation input of said search condition update step.

19. (Previously presented) A document retrieval method according to claim 18, further comprising a user evaluation erase step for erasing a desired evaluation as to desirability or undesirability inputted by the user and delivered in said search result history display step, in accordance with a request from the user and updating weights of strings in the search condition to the state available when said evaluation is not made.

U.S. Serial No. 10/678,065

ASA-927-02

20. (Previously presented) A document retrieval method according to claim 12, wherein a user's evaluation for a search result document is inputted in accordance with a method for setting one or more evaluation grades, the search condition includes weights assigned to strings and the weight of a string is updated in accordance with a method for setting the degree of change in many grades pursuant to said evaluation.

21. (Currently amended) A document retrieval system, adapted to perform a series of document retrieval processes including a plurality of retrieval operations inputted by a user, comprising:

user's evaluation input means for inputting a user's evaluation of a document ~~by designating a document~~ retrieved in a document search conducted pursuant to a search ~~condition~~ query, said user's evaluation including an evaluation as to whether the document is desirable for the user's search purpose;

search condition query storage means for storing, when said search ~~condition~~ query is updated based on said evaluation, a search ~~condition~~ query after the update in association with the retrieval operation thereof, in addition

U.S. Serial No. 10/678,065

ASA-927-02

to those search ~~conditions~~ queries that have been stored in ~~connection with~~ previous retrieval operations conducted before said update in said series of document retrieval processes;

search result storage means for storing a search result based on the search ~~condition~~ query after the update in addition to those search ~~conditions~~ results that have been stored in ~~connection with~~ previous retrieval operations conducted before said update in said series of document retrieval processes; and

search history storage means for storing information on a history of the search ~~conditions~~ queries each stored by said search ~~condition~~ query storage means, information on a history of search results each stored by said search result storage means, ~~and said evaluation and an identifier of a document subjected to said evaluation by making a correspondence among them and each of user's evaluations and each of identifiers of documents subjected to said evaluations by making a~~ correspondence among the search query, the search result, the user's evaluation and the identifier of the document subjected to the user's evaluation.

22. (Currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium storing a document retrieval program which, when

U.S. Serial No. 10/678,065

ASA-927-02

executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform a document retrieval method involving a series of document retrieval processes including a plurality of retrieval operations inputted by a user, the method performed according to the program comprising:

a user's evaluation input step for inputting a user's evaluation of a document ~~by designating a document~~ retrieved in a document search conducted pursuant to a search ~~condition~~ query, said user's evaluation including an evaluation as to whether the document is desirable for search purpose;

a search ~~condition~~ query storage step for storing, when updating said search ~~condition~~ query based on said evaluation, a search ~~condition~~ query after the update in association with the retrieval operation thereof, in addition to those search ~~conditions~~ queries that have been stored in ~~connection with~~ previous retrieval operations conducted before said update in said series of document retrieval processes;

a search result storage step for storing a search result based on the search ~~condition~~ query after the update in addition to those search ~~conditions~~ results that have been stored in ~~connection with~~ previous retrieval operations conducted before said update in said series of document retrieval processes; and

U.S. Serial No. 10/678,065

ASA-927-02

a search history storage step for storing information on a history of the search ~~conditions~~ queries each stored in said search ~~condition~~ query storage step, information on a history of search results each stored in said search result storage step, ~~and said evaluation and an identifier of a document subjected to said evaluation by making a correspondence between them and each of user's evaluations and each of identifiers of documents subjected to said evaluations by making a correspondence among the search query, the search result, the user's evaluation and the identifier of the document subjected to the user's evaluation.~~